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THE INKWELL



Week of January 19, 2012

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Sports

Lady pirates look back on successful season

The Armstrong community celebrated the Lady Pirates 2011 soccer season Dec. 5 with a reception in the Student Union. Earlier this season, the team earned its first Final Four berth, which sent the Lady Pirates to Pensacola, Fla., to chase the NCAA Division II National Championship title.

After arriving in Florida, the Armstrong Lady Pirates faced an unfortunate 2-0 loss against the College of Saint Rose's Golden Knights, and in the end, the Golden Knights took home the national championship title.



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Game Review

Wired: 'Star Wars: The Old Republic'

I've personally never been a fan of massively multiplayer online role playing games. I'm always highly critical of games like "World of Warcraft," because they are never appealing to my style of play. I like engrossing myself in games with a great story, in-depth and interesting characters, and playing for the purpose of having a great single-player experience.

That being said, as the release of "Star Wars: The Old Republic" quickly approached Dec. 20, I faced the predicament of wanting to purchase the game because I love "Star Wars," — I've seen all the movies and played all the games — but the idea of the new game being an MMO was a major turn off. But all I needed was a few short hours with the game, and I was sold.

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Tanner's Sports Corner



Missed the playoffs? Armchair quarterback Scott Tanner breaks down all four of last week's NFL playoff games and speculates on this weekend's results in his weekly sports column.

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Campus voices

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Fine Arts Gallery hosts National 2-D Competition Exhibition

By Kasey Stewart

At the start of the new year, Armstrong AMT presented the National Two-Dimensional Competition Exhibition. The show is a first for Armstrong, and it displays works created by artists all over the country.

The competition is comprised of 29 pieces of two-dimensional art of all different mediums, ranging from photography to paint.

Professor and gallery director Pang-Chieh Hsu said admissions were open to artists all over the U.S.

"There were 110 submissions, and out of that 29 were chosen," he said. "This is Armstrong's first time hosting, and the aim is to bring different young artists to our campus and show what's new in contemporary art."

Hsu said he also hopes the competition will become an annual event.

Two Armstrong students were selected to contribute to the exhibition: Jessica Roche with her colorful, panoramic landscape digital photograph "Bridge," and Olivia Stusak with her digital photographs of the Eiffel Tower "From My Height," and a color graffiti portrait "Artist Marks."

Local artists Elsie Hill took second place overall in the contest with her painting "The Herd," an eye-catching, monochromatic oil painting of a herd of sheep.

Art history and photography instructor at Genesee Community College in Rochester, N.Y., Andrew Super had black and white prints "Rochester Public Market," and "One Hour Spent Writing a Letter to My Wife," selected for the exhibit. According to Super, the photos took extensive work.

"Both shots were pretty labor intensive and took quite a bit of planning and testing. When you work with long exposures, the film stops acting in a uniform way, so you need to do a lot of tests to see how it acts with certain types of light after certain periods of time," Super said. "All in all, from the planning, shooting,



Photo by Vincent Haines

"Flight Pattern," a 15-inch-by-19-inch photograph by Wilfred Loring, won first place in the 2-D Competition Exhibition. This photo and other winners from the competition are displayed in the Fine Arts Hall.

processing, and then correcting the photographs, I'd say they took about 20 hours a piece."

For artists like Super, juror Shana Barefoot — exhibition manager at the Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia — was part of the excitement surrounding the competition.

"My work is rather quirky, so to have it accepted into such a large exhibition was a real honor, especially with the juror being such a well-known figure in the arts in the southeast," he said.

Although two-dimensional art can sometimes present artists with constraints, the gallery exhibits a wide range of art — something sophomore art major

Christina Hood said she likes.

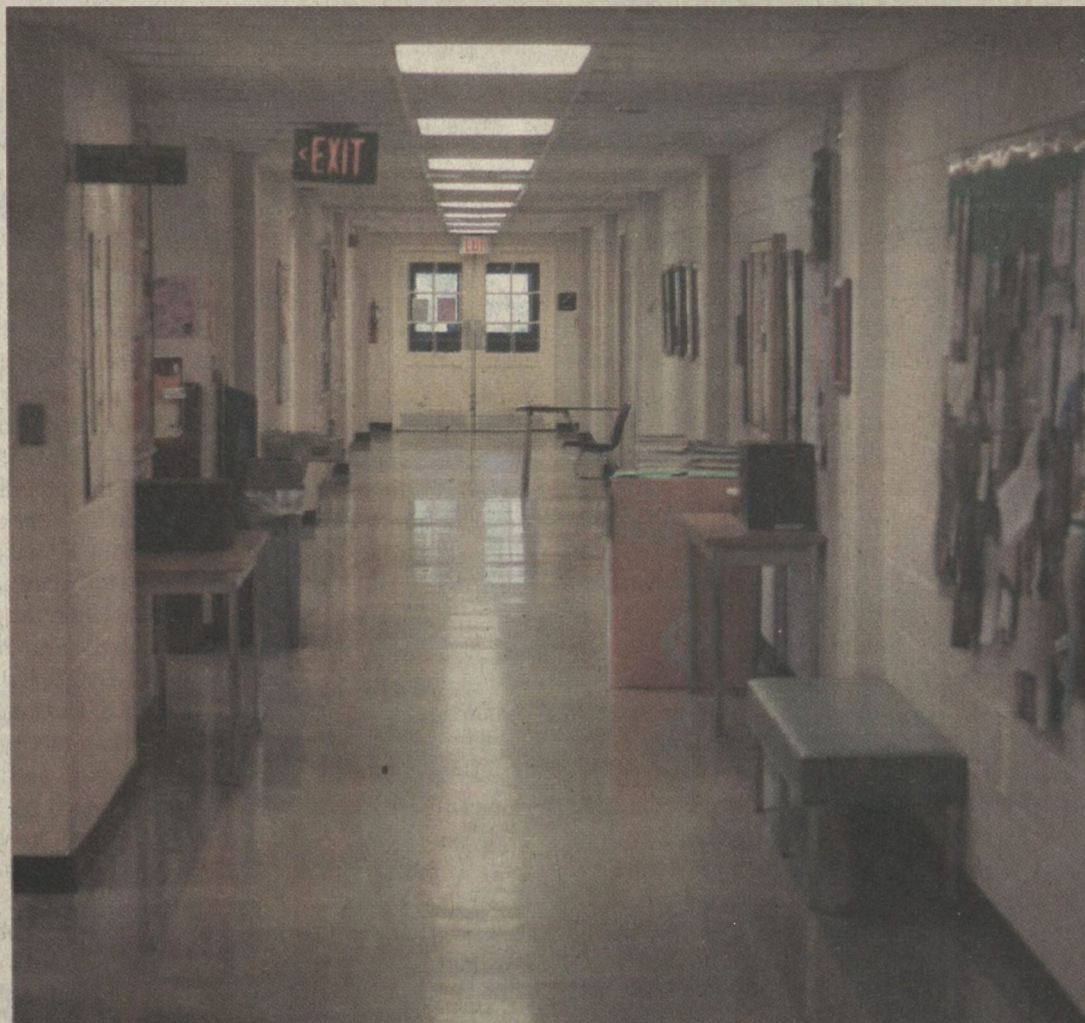
"I really enjoy 2-D art," Hood said. "Photography can be very beautiful. I love working with charcoal also for black and white 2-D."

The gallery is also serving as a muse for artists who have not worked with two-dimensional art recently.

"I took many art classes all throughout high school at Savannah Arts Academy. I graduated three years ago, so I am very excited to start working with drawing and painting again," Hood said.

The exhibit is on display in the Fine Arts Gallery until Jan. 27, and the gallery reception of the first national exhibition is Jan. 20 at 5:30 p.m.

Armstrong prepares Gamble Hall for renovation



Gamble Hall houses Armstrong's Department of Languages, Literature and Philosophy. Built in 1965, it is the only original core building that has not undergone a complete renovation.

By Jeremiah Johnson
News.Inkwell@gmail.com

Faulty climate control, cramped desks, broken projectors, outdated restrooms and inadequate handicap facilities are just some of the issues that concern Gamble Hall's students, faculty and staff. Fortunately, this semester marks the last months that classes will be held in the building's current condition.

Built in 1965, Gamble Hall is the only original core building that has not undergone a complete renovation. Construction on the facility is scheduled to begin summer 2012 and has an estimated completion date of summer 2013. According to Armstrong's website, the approximated budget of the renovation is \$2.5 million and will focus on bringing the building into full code compliance, upgrading the building's systems and modernizing the facility's interior.

Specific projects include replacing the building's

mechanical systems and roof as well as making the facility more ADA accessible by installing an elevator and providing more accessible restroom facilities.

Currently, if a classroom is unable to accommodate a student who has a disability, then the classroom is required to relocate. Such accommodations not only apply to permanently disabled students but also to those who become temporarily impaired.

"If someone gets injured in a ski accident and cannot navigate the stairs — that classroom has to be switched in the middle of the semester," said Deborah Reese, associate professor of English and Writing Center director.

Another concern for the upgrade is making the building more energy-efficient.

"One of the main issues that we wanted was to ensure that it is a building that is better for the environment, that reduces energy cost and is more manageable," said David Carson, vice president for business and finance. "We expect to see a significant



Photos by Vincent Haines

Incorrectly shutting the front entrance to Gamble Hall prevents the automatic doors from operating properly.

savings in energy usage."

A major logistical challenge that the faculty faces is relocating the building's many classrooms, labs and offices. Starting this summer, students who normally attend classes and seek advisement in Gamble Hall can expect to receive such services in several different locations around campus.

"We will be everywhere from the annex to the Athletic Recreation Center — to the library, University Hall, Ashmore Hall, Solms Hall, Victor Hall and every other building," Reese said.

During the renovation, students can expect all the same tutoring services provided in Gamble Hall offered elsewhere on campus. The Writing Center will be located in Room 224 of Lane Library.

"We want to be just as a vital part of campus life as ever," Reese said.

The project is currently in transition from the programming phase to the design phase and most of the specific design features are not final.

"We hope to have our faculty members under one roof again," Reese said.

A committee of faculty members is meeting with the architect to discuss how to best utilize all the space," Carson said.

The Inkwell will provide updates to the renovation and new design features in future editions.

Lady Pirates look back at successful soccer season

By Chloe Kirby

The Armstrong community celebrated the Lady Pirates 2011 soccer season Dec. 5 with a reception in the Student Union. Earlier this season, the team earned its first Final Four berth, which sent the Lady Pirates to Pensacola, Fla., to chase the NCAA Division II National Championship title.

After arriving in Florida, the Armstrong Lady Pirates faced an unfortunate 2-0 loss against the College of Saint Rose's Golden Knights, and in the end, the Golden Knights took home the national championship title.

Armstrong administration, coaches and players both from the soccer team and other sports turned out alongside supportive fans at the Dec. 5 event.

Athletic Director Lisa M. Sweany began the celebration by recapping the Lady Pirates success.

"The ladies were 18-3-3 overall and 9-0-1 within the Peach Belt Conference," Sweany said. "They ended seventh in the nation, which is the highest ranking ever from the Armstrong soccer team." Sweany closed the event

proclaiming that the team set the standard for future soccer seasons.

"We want to wish all of our seniors luck as they move forward, and to those of you who are returning, you know where the bar has been set and what you have to do to have to accomplish those goals again for next year," she said. "Thank you for representing Armstrong in the first class manner that you did."

Head coach Eric Faulconer couldn't be more pleased with the Lady Pirates' performance this season. Faulconer received the Peach Belt Conference's Coach of the Year and NSCAA Southeast Region Coach of the Year awards for his third straight year.

"It's been fantastic," Faulconer said. "It's something that when I took the job here I thought we could accomplish, and we worked really, really hard each year to push that bar a little bit higher."

"This team did everything I asked of them to all season long, prior to the season getting ready and believed that they could get there," he said. "In the end, we were able to get to the Final Four and maybe the result

wasn't exactly how we wanted it to go, but we are extremely proud."

From a player's perspective, senior captain Kelli Bahr said she was happy with the team's success.

"Obviously, there is some disappointment because I know what we could have achieved, but we tried our best and gave it our all, and I can't feel anything but gratitude and happiness for this program," Bahr said.

Bahr is one of the four players that will not be returning next season.

"The experience is one I will cherish forever," she said. "Looking back, I couldn't ask for a better way to go out. My senior year we accomplished more than we've ever accomplished in this program, and I couldn't have asked for more."

With such an accomplished 2011 season, the Lady Pirates soccer team has high goals for 2012. Returning midfielder Morgan Mitchell said that the team's goals should include working hard to top this season's level of play.

"Obviously we want to win a national championship, but we know it's going to take a lot of hard work," she said.

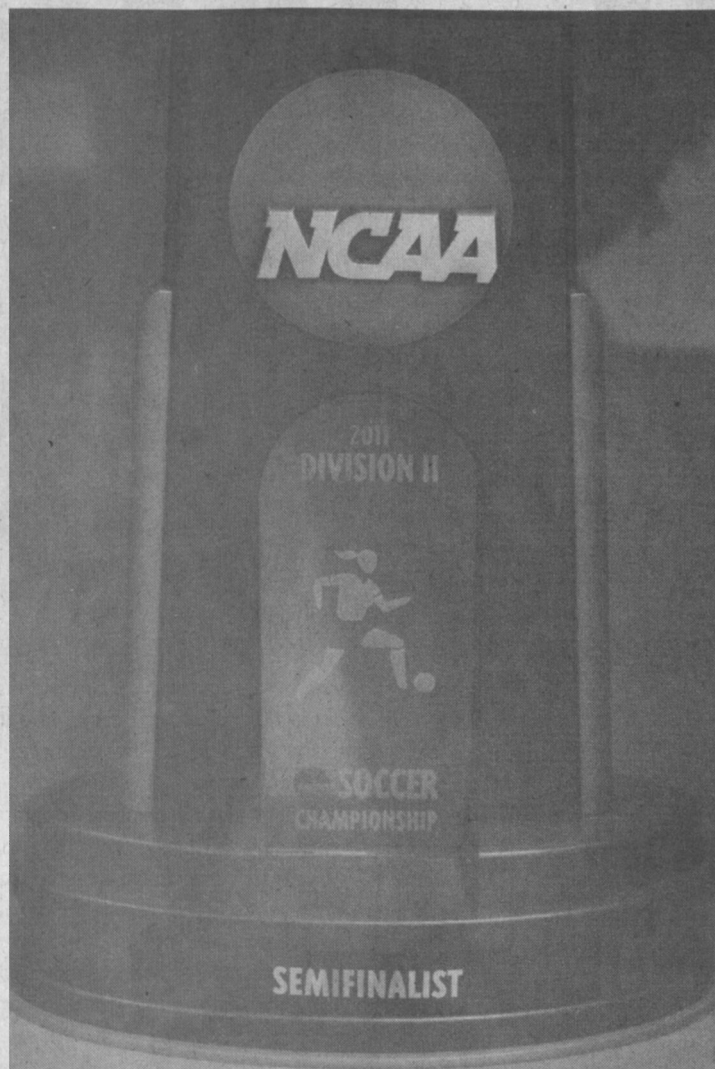


Photo by Vincent Haines
Lady Pirates' semifinalist trophy is displayed in the Armstrong Sports Center.

Campus Voices

"What's the one change you would like to see as a result of the Gamble Hall renovation?"



"I wish there was a communal area for students, so it doesn't feel like a concrete bunker with only classrooms."

Jane Rago
professor,
English



"An elevator would be nice."

Alesia Brown,
freshman,
early childhood education



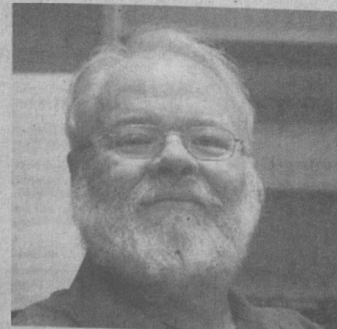
"I think the chalkboards should be changed."

Kattielie Thys,
freshman,
engineering



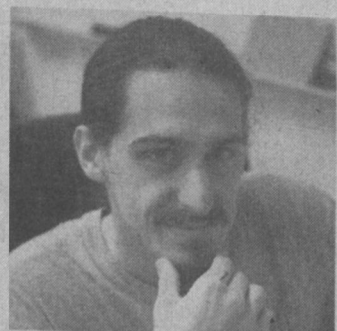
"I like that the building will be updated, but I hope that it doesn't lose the warmth of old Gamble."

Carol Andrews,
professor,
English



"I hope they get the heating and cooling to work properly, and I would like the windows to be openable."

Thomas Cooksey
professor,
philosophy



"One thing I wish to see is new computers or really new equipment in general."

Matt Bryarly,
junior,
political science

Tanner's sports corner: NFL playoff recap

By Scott Tanner



Armchair quarterback and English major Scott Tanner is a writer and sports columnist for The Inkwell. His views do not necessarily reflect those of The Inkwell editorial board.

New Orleans Saints 32 San Francisco 49ers 36

First-year NFL head coach Jim Harbough led his San Francisco 49ers to their first playoff victory in nine years at Candlestick.

The Saints' Drew Brees threw for an incredible 461 yards and four touchdowns but could not overcome the five turnovers caused by the 49ers' defense. Alex Smith threw for 299 yards in the win.

The 49ers struck first with a pair of touchdown passes in the first quarter followed by a field goal early in the second quarter. The Saints answered with a pair of touchdown passes of their own in the second quarter, giving the 49ers a 17-14 edge going into halftime.

The 49ers scored the only points in the third quarter with a 41-yard field goal by David Akers.

A Saints' 48-yard field goal started one of the most dramatic and entertaining quarters in the 2011-2012 NFL playoffs. The 49ers answered a field goal bringing the score to 23-17 with 7:36 left on the clock.

Drew Brees connected with Darren Sproles on a 44-yard touchdown pass, giving the Saints their first lead of the afternoon. The 49ers regained the lead with a 28-yard touchdown run by Smith with 2:11 left in the game.

Jimmy Graham caught a 66-yard touchdown pass from Brees — his fourth of the afternoon — and completed a two-point conversion to take a three-point lead with 1:37 left on the game clock.

It took Smith only seven plays to go 85 yards to end the game with a touchdown pass to Vernon Davis — to which he has self-dubbed "The Grab."

Smith's 14-yard touchdown pass to Davis with nine seconds left in the fourth quarter solidified the victory for the 49ers sending them into the NFC Championship game.

The Saints' struggles on the road continue to haunt the Super Bowl Champions of two years ago. Last year, a loss to the 7-9 Seahawks dashed all hopes of a repeat. This year, an upstart 49ers team sent the Saints back to "The Big Easy" with their fourth road loss of the year. Jim Harbough continues his

tradition of turning mediocre teams into relevant competitors. The 49ers displayed a swagger that has long since disappeared from the Bay area. If Harbough can continue this ride, the world may see the second Harbough brother's showdown of the season.

New England Patriots 45 Denver Broncos 10

Bill Belichick and the New England Patriots put an end to Tebow-mania. Tom Brady threw for 363 yards and six touchdowns — tying the great Steve Young and Daryle Lamonia for the most touchdown passes in a postseason game.

The Patriots scored two touchdowns on their first two possessions. Brady also helped the Broncos by tossing an interception to Quinton Carter. Willis McGahee scored four plays later with a five-yard touchdown run.

The Patriots added three touchdowns in the second quarter — one to Deion Branch and two to tight end Rob Gronkowski, his third of the day. The Patriots would take a 35-7 lead into the locker room at halftime.

Brady connected with Aaron Hernandez in the third quarter for a 17-yard touchdown pass. A Brady fumble set up Denver's final score of the day, a 41-yard field goal by Matt Prader.

Stephen Gostkowski added a 20-yard field goal giving the Patriots a 45-10 lead.

The Broncos' season ended as many thought it would. Tim Tebow was held to 13 yards rushing and 136 yards through the air. If the Broncos intend to keep Tebow at the helm, they will have to add several weapons in the offseason. Tebow must learn how to be a true NFL quarterback in the offseason — hopefully he was

taking notes on the sidelines Saturday.

The Patriots continue their dynasty with the use of multiple weapons and little-known players. Few will argue that Brady is one of the top quarterbacks of all time, and there is little doubt that he will let up as he faces the Baltimore Ravens — one of the top defensive teams in the NFL.

Baltimore Ravens 20 Houston Texans 13

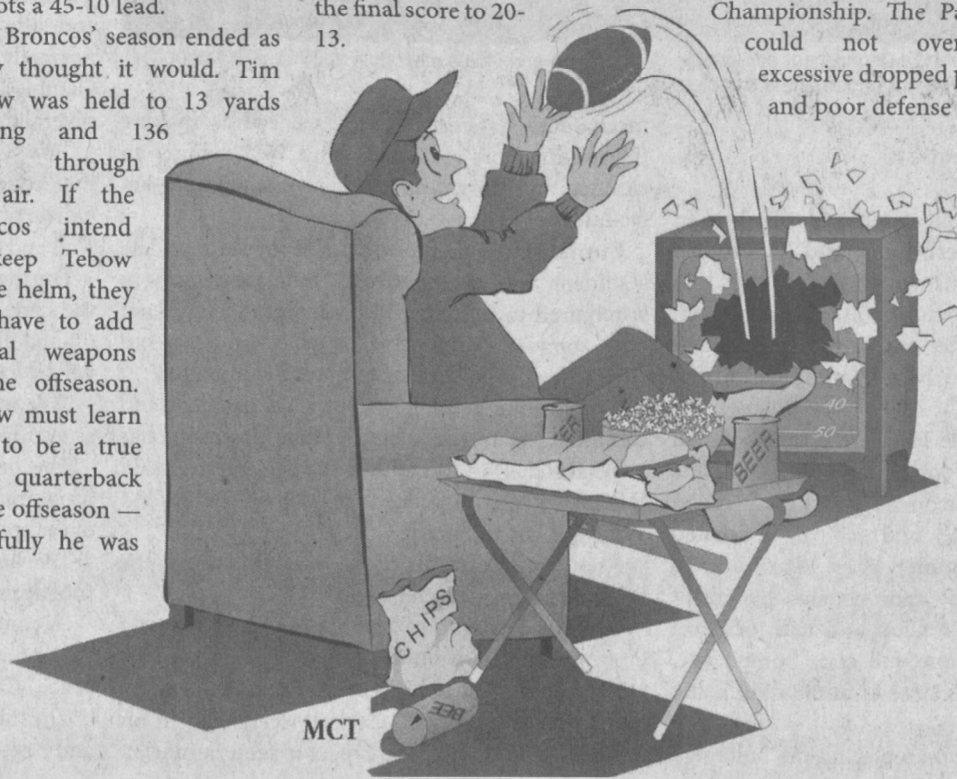
A battered Houston Texans team came into Baltimore confident after their first playoff victory in franchise history against the Cincinnati Bengals, but confidence is not enough to beat a tough Ravens team.

The Texans struck first with a Neil Rackers' 40-yard field goal. The Ravens answered with a Joe Flacco one-yard touchdown pass to Kris Wilson.

Billy Cundiff gave the Ravens the lead with a 48-yard field goal. Later, Flacco would connect with Anquan Boldin for a 10-yard touchdown pass giving the Ravens a 17-3 lead heading into the second quarter.

A Rackers' 33-yard field goal early in the second quarter and one-yard touchdown run by Adrian Foster brought the Texans within four heading into halftime.

The second half was a defensive struggle. The Ravens added a 44-yard field goal late in the fourth quarter bringing the final score to 20-13.



Lost and without a compass



By Brittany Cook
Copy.Inkwell@gmail.com

When President Bleicken removed the compass as our school's logo, one of my favorite professors joked that "she obviously doesn't want us to have any direction." Unfortunately, Armstrong's lack of directions couldn't even be fixed with the once-beloved compass.

Every semester, it never fails for me to witness some lost souls wandering aimless around campus with maps in hand until they summon up the courage to stop random students and admit that they have no clue where they are.

As a freshman and one of the shyest people I know, it took several semesters for me figure out where things were, and that of course was before the campus changed altogether. Now as a senior, my first days of every semester have been spent sitting in the Writing Center

directing various freshmen where to go and informing them that indeed they were not in Hawes Hall like they thought but Gamble instead. Even as a student who has attended this college for almost four years, I couldn't be completely positive where some of the buildings — such as Ashmore Hall or the so-called and yet-to-found "Annex" — are located.

Armstrong is like a mile-wide, foreign nation where there are almost a hundred flags declaring this land to be Armstrong land, but there are no street signs, no addresses, no direction to point a student or visitor down the right trail. Each building has at least three entrances, and the signs in most cases are small or fairly well hidden in the bushes.

"You know how when you arrive at a mall, and there's a sign directly in from of you

that shows you, 'Left to Macy's' or 'Right to Sears?' Signage like that would be helpful, pointing people in the right direction with the names of the buildings on campus," said freshman Abby Loesch, a psychology major. "It's true that once you know the layout, it's easy to navigate, but it would be great for students who are unaccustomed to the campus, visitors or those who simply have a poor sense of direction — like me."

Armstrong would be better suited to invest in some non-charcoal-colored, clean signs placing them on all entrances to the buildings and some clean, decorative signs that sit along the open paths and direct people toward the right course.

Maybe then we won't need the old compass logo to find our way around.

Will Supreme Court decide FCC indecency rules go the way of rabbit ears?

By Linda P. Campbell
McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

The late, profane iconoclast George Carlin must have been rolling in his grave Jan. 10 — with laughter at the irony and potential.

Here was Chief Justice John Roberts, the good Republican, endorsing the government's ability to regulate corporations, broadcasters anyway.

There was attorney Seth Waxman for ABC Inc. directing all eyeballs to the friezes high above the court chambers and talking about "a bare buttock there" and "a bare buttock here."

Hanging over the arguments was the titillating prospect of overturning the 1978 Pacifica decision that immortalized Carlin's "Filthy Words" monologue as an appendix to Justice John Paul Stevens' opinion for the court. In FCC v. Pacifica Foundation, the court said the Federal Communications Commission could punish broadcasters for airing "indecency" between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m., when children were likely to be in the audience. Now, Fox Television Stations wants to let the industry police itself.

Judging from the transcript, Jan. 10's arguments would have made for snappy TV, entertaining without any need of a laugh track.

But, darn, those justices still don't want even a C-SPAN audience.

This is the second time in recent years that the court has weighed the constitutionality of the FCC punishing bad language and nudity on broadcast TV. Fox is involved because of awards shows on which Cher and Nicole Richie spouted naughties. ABC is challenging a fine

over an "NYPD Blue" episode in which a young boy sees a woman's backside. They've been fighting over this for almost a decade.

You could tell Roberts has school-age children.

"People who want to watch broadcasts ... or expose their children to broadcasts where these words are used, where there is nudity, there are 800 channels where they can go for that," he told Carter Phillips, Fox's attorney. "All we are asking for," he started, then caught himself, "what the government is asking for, is a few channels where you can say ... they are not going to hear the s-word, the f-word. They are not going to see nudity."

Justice Antonin Scalia, who ordinarily opposes government-regulating speech when it looks like money (as in campaign contributions), put himself squarely on the side of government regulating vulgar speech.

"Sign me up as supporting Justice Kennedy's notion that this has a symbolic value, just as we require a certain modicum of dress for the people that attend this court," Scalia said.

The argument for broadcast regulation is that the airwaves belong to the public and that certain restrictions come with the license to use them. Broadcasters counter that, with the proliferation of other TV options, most people can't tell what's broadcast and what isn't. The same content limits don't cover cable, satellite or the Internet.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg seemed to embrace the argument that the FCC enforces the rules inconsistently, punishing "NYPD Blue" but not nudity in the movie "Schindler's List," for instance, or allowing

profanity on TV showings of "Saving Private Ryan."

Justice Elena Kagan quipped, "It's like nobody can use dirty words or nudity except for Steven Spielberg and that there's a lot of room here for FCC enforcement on the basis of what speech they think is kind of nice and proper and good."

Solicitor General Donald Verrilli, arguing for the Obama administration, conceded that the rules weren't a model of clarity but said context matters in determining punishable indecency.

Shades of the late Justice Potter Stewart's "I know it when I see it" about hard-core pornography.

What is government's role in drawing lines for acceptable public behavior? Does that change as society grows coarser and less shockable?

Justice Anthony Kennedy fretted about creating perverse incentives: "Isn't the inevitable consequence ... that every celebrity or want-to-be celebrity that is interviewed can feel free to use one of these words?"

But Phillips said, "The truth is the advertisers and the audiences that have to be responded to by the networks insist on some measure of restraint."

Justice Samuel Alito suggested that the problem could solve itself.

"Broadcast TV is living on borrowed time. It is not going to be long before it goes the way of vinyl records and 8-track tapes," he said. "I'm sure your clients will continue to make billions of dollars on their programs which are transmitted, by cable and by satellite and by Internet. But to the extent they are making money from people who are using rabbit ears, that is disappearing."

THE INKWELL

Is now hiring writers and photographers.

Interested students should email

News.Inkwell@gmail.com

or turn in a Student Leadership Application to
Memorial College Center room 201.

A note from The Inkwell Editorial Board:

The Inkwell Editorial Board

With the first week-and-a-half of the spring semester under the belt, there are plenty of textbook bills requiring urgent attention and syllabi that have to be considered before drop/add ends. The Inkwell is no exception to the priority-shuffling that snatches up the first few weeks of every term, and The Inkwell's staff has new plans for the paper in 2012.

The most noticeable change will be the reappearance, of our YouTube series "Love It-Hate It," where The Inkwell's movie critics discuss the silver screen's top sensations every two weeks. After a dry run last summer, The Inkwell's decided that we're ready for the web, and we hope the web is ready for us.

The Inkwell is also looking ahead toward putting other video content online. Wish

you could have made it to that Pirate's game scheduled during your evening class? We're planning to air video coverage of sports games online this year. Stay tuned.

Another change for The Inkwell is our method of distribution. Last semester, we started experimenting with off-campus distribution, and this semester we plan on stepping it up, so get used to seeing our logo around town.

And speaking of our appearance, we plan on slowly redesigning our paper this year. While you read our coverage of Gamble Hall's oncoming renovations, we'll be changing our appearance as well.

If your interested in diving into student journalism, then we encourage you to come and join us in what promises to be an exciting year.

For the rest of our audience out there, happy new year, and happy reading.

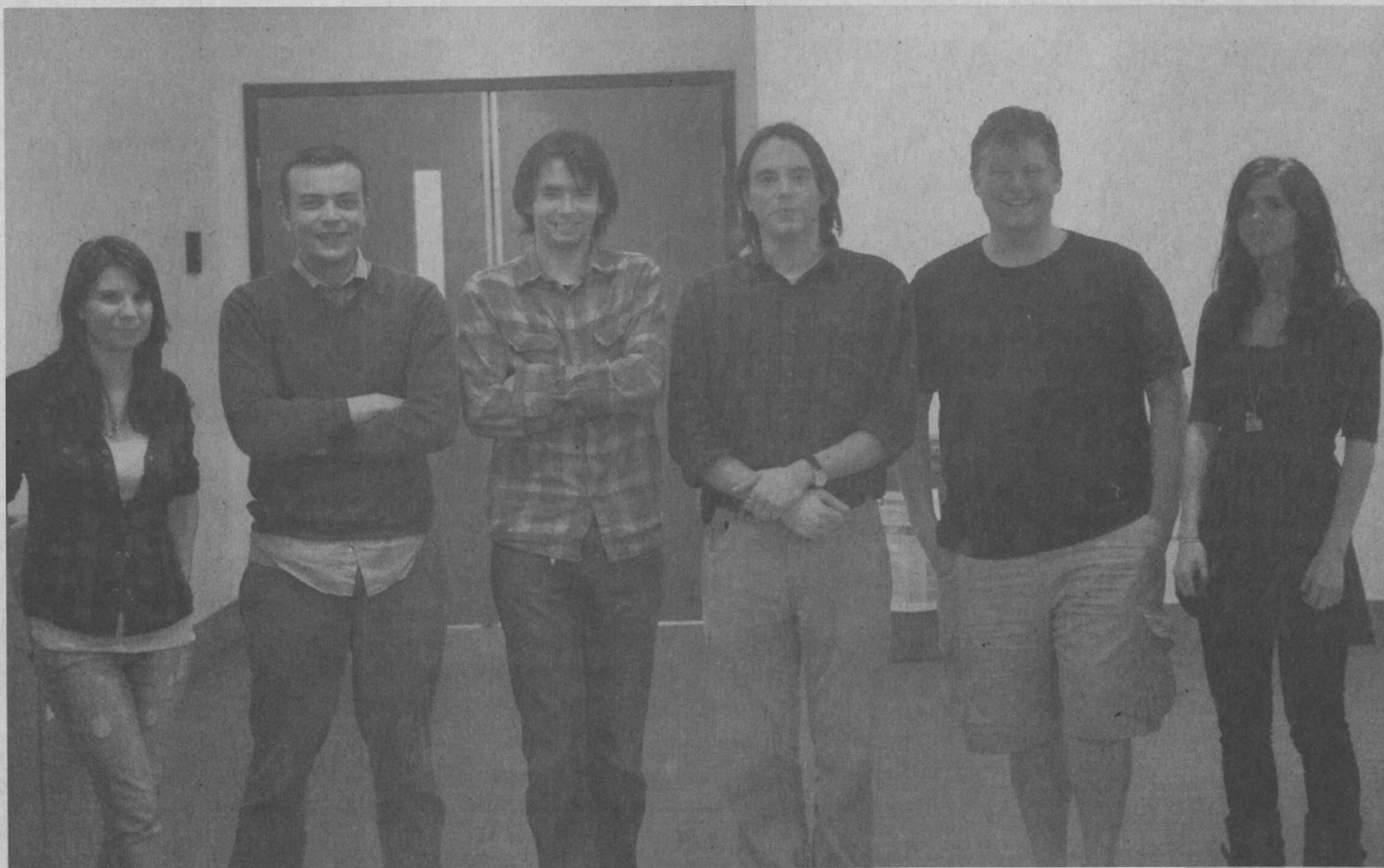


Photo by Caroline Smith

Left to Right: Brittany Cook, Copy Editor; Jeremiah Johnson, News Editor; Mike Choromanski, Layout Editor; F. Reese Shellman III, Editor-in-Chief; Vincent Haines, Photo Editor; and Andrea Cervone, Arts and Entertainment Editor.

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Ireland: An escape from expectations

By Reilly Mesco

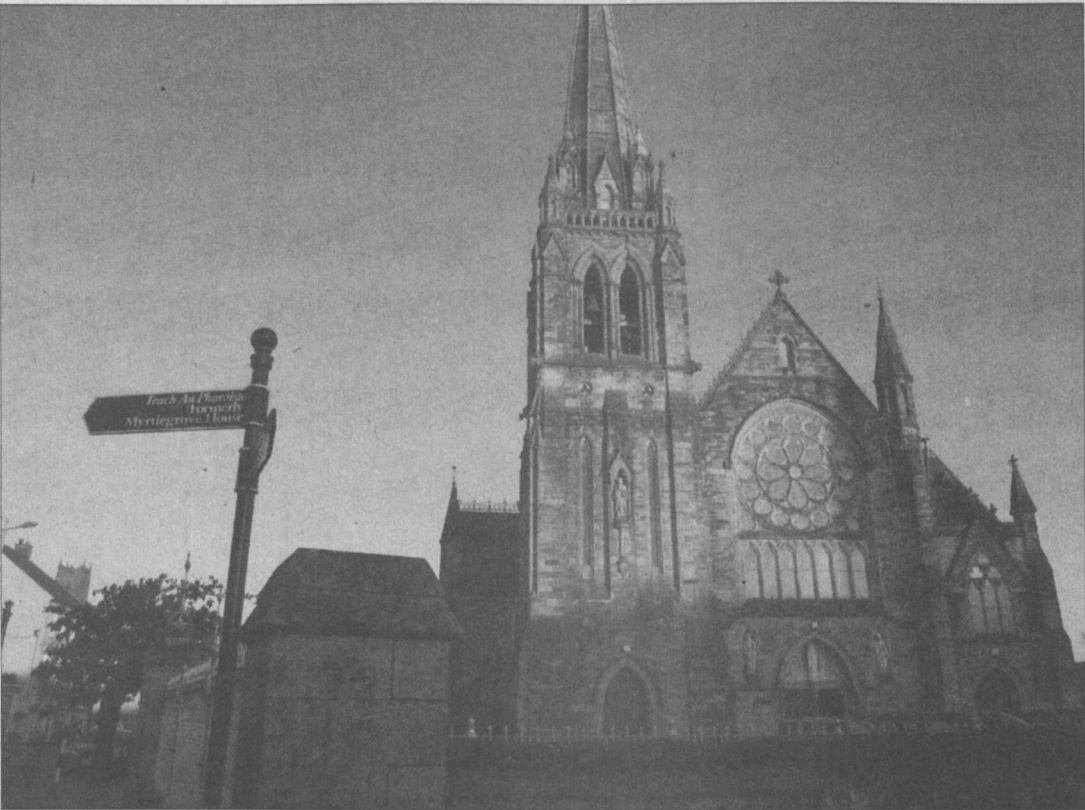
Reilly Mesco is a sophomore majoring in English at Armstrong. Her views do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial board. The following is a column about her experience spending a semester abroad.

At least once in your life, you need to buy a one-way plane ticket. I know, it sounds a little ridiculous using the word 'need.' You should understand though that when you do buy that one-way plane ticket, you are not only buying a seat on an airplane. You're buying possibility. You're buying excitement. You're buying a chance. Buy a one-way plane ticket to wherever your heart feels it needs to go, and make it up as you go along. Take it from a girl who knows.

When people ask me what precipitated my sudden decision to leave, I can never give exactly the same answer. I'm a true believer in following my gut. I do whatever feels right at that moment. So when I decided to forgo my fall semester and randomly jet off to Ireland, I felt calm. I was listening to what I wanted, which is something that people don't get to do too often.

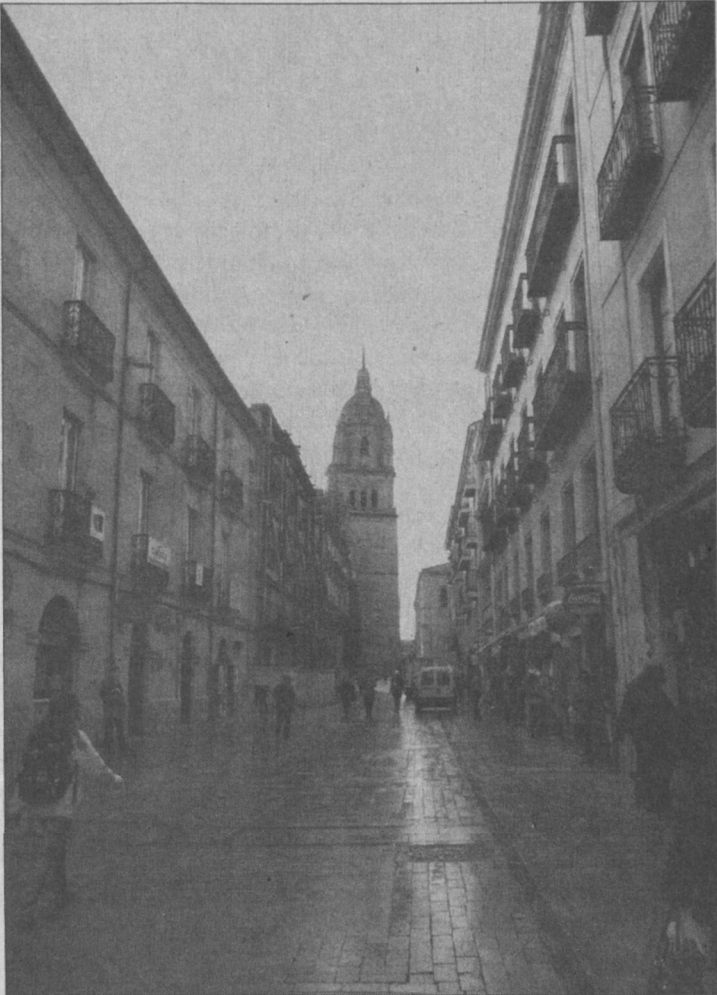
I spent my summer as a nanny to two adorable, exhausting children and was helping plan my sister's wedding. Throw in a healthy dash of a failed romance and life in general, and you've got the recipe for one exhausted 20-year-old. So by the time summer break came to a close, I was dreading school and all the responsibilities, deadlines and general craziness that goes along with being a college student. All I could think about was how much I didn't want to go and how tired I was.

This wasn't the kind of tired that can be remedied with a mid-afternoon nap or a weekend staying in bed and reading. Trust me, I tried. It was flat-out, full-force mental exhaustion — the kind where you wake up tired, and you



Left: The Church of the Immaculate Conception in Clonakilty, Ireland. Right: Citizens stroll down a street in the early morning in Salamanca, Spain.

Photos by Reilly Mesco



stay tired all day. Life had gotten me down, and I needed a pick-me-up.

So I took it as a sign when my Irish godmother called one day to catch up with my mom and asked, "So when are you coming to see me again?"

Before I knew what I was saying, the words "As soon as I buy a plane ticket," came tumbling out of my mouth. Two days later, I used almost all of the earnings from my nanny job and bought a one-way ticket to Ireland.

A few weeks later, after seeing my sister get married and rushing around getting my expired passport renewed, I landed in Shannon Airport, at 5 a.m. local time, with a full-blown cold I had developed two days before and a serious case of jet lag.

None of that mattered though. It didn't matter that I could barely understand the nice lady at customs because my cold and the pressure of the plane caused my nasal passages and ear drums to swell up like balloons. It didn't matter that when I emerged from the airport, it was cold and rainy. It's always raining in Ireland.

I was beyond happy — and not just because of all the cold medicine I had been taking throughout my six-and-a-half-hour flight. I was in Ireland.

I will admit, the first few days I was in Ireland, I oscillated between sleeping for hours and wondering what the hell I had just done. For about three days, I was convinced I made a mistake.

What was I doing? Aren't

you supposed to have a plan? That's what society kept telling me. Make a plan. Make sure you hit all the marks. Fortunately, I began relaxing and coming to terms with not having a schedule, and I began to like it.

A few weeks into my self-imposed exile, I discovered the deliciously addictive feeling of complete anonymity. Being anonymous in a different city affords you the luxury of being able to wander around undisturbed, without rhyme or reason. It's freeing and exhilarating, being on no one else's schedule but your own.

Now I'm sure to some people that sounds rather lonely, but it's not lonely at all. I let myself get lost in the crowd and became an excellent observer. I spent hours wandering around

my temporary home of Cork, watching, listening, sitting and thinking. No one asked me questions. No one expected me to do anything. I simply existed, and it was remarkable.

Over my three months of spontaneous vacation, I did some awesome things. I went to Spain for the first — and definitely not the last — time in my life. I climbed up and over a mountain. I met new friends and went clubbing until the wee hours of the morning. I spent hours in bed reading books that hadn't been assigned to me and that I didn't have to pick apart later. I learned how to make a proper cup of tea and in the process developed a serious addiction

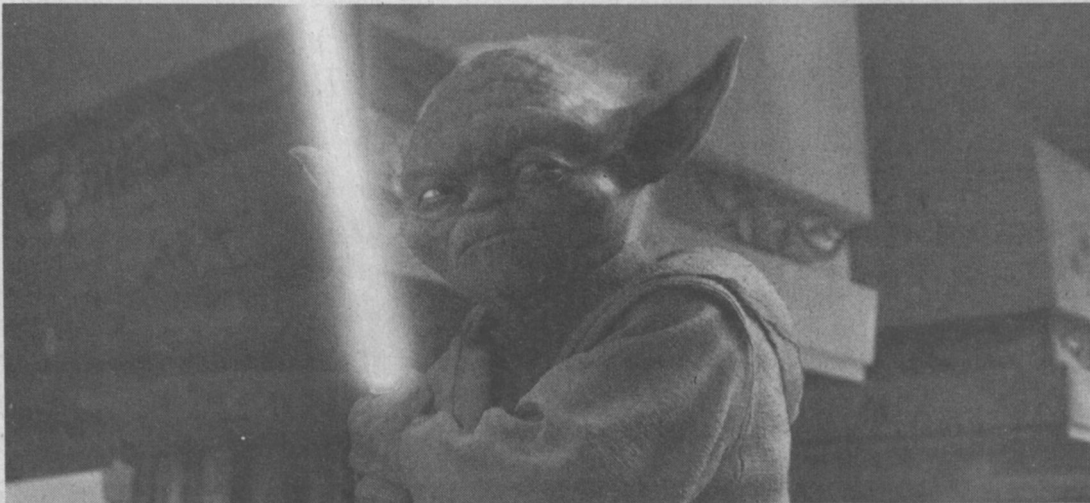
to Irish breakfast tea. I learned how to relax, and most importantly, I learned how to spend time with myself.

I will never regret taking time off from school. My time abroad was an invaluable lesson in understanding expectations. Before I spontaneously decided to take time off, I was totally wrapped up in what was expected of me. I was "supposed" to do so many things. But really, I'm 20. The only thing I'm truly supposed to do is enjoy life and figure things out at my own pace.

And that, ladies and gentlemen, is why you need to buy a one-way plane ticket at least once in your life.

Wired: 'Star Wars' franchise strikes back

Wired is a column by video game enthusiast Kyle Dobson, a senior majoring in English at Armstrong. His views do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial board.



Iconic "Star Wars" character Yoda is an example of a Jedi knight, one of the profession options available to players of "Star Wars: The Old Republic."

By Kyle Dobson

I've personally never been a fan of massively multiplayer online role playing games. I'm always highly critical of games like "World of Warcraft," because they are never appealing to my style of play. I like engrossing myself in games with a great story, in-depth and interesting characters, and playing for the purpose of having a great single-player experience.

That being said, as the release of "Star Wars: The Old Republic" quickly approached Dec. 20, I faced the predicament of wanting to purchase the game because I love "Star Wars," — I've seen all the movies and played all the games — but the idea of the new game being an MMO was a major turn off. But all I needed was a few short hours with the game, and I was sold.

Game developer Bioware and publisher Electronic Arts did a fantastic job of kicking the game

off with jaw-dropping cinematic effects.

Players will experience the sudden invasion of the planet Korriban by the Sith, but after choosing an allegiance with either the empire or the republic, players subsequently get a different cinematic experience that sets the character's stage as you're planted into the galaxy of "Star Wars."

All the cinematic effects showcase different character classes and their abilities. Both can be unlocked and utilized in the game. Essentially, it is a great device to get players pumped about the gameplay.

As with any MMO, character creation is important to the players and overall process of the game. Players are able to choose from different races, including, everything from Sith and cyborgs to humans. Additionally, players are tasked with picking their profession, whether it's a Jedi knight, Jedi consular, Sith warrior,

Sith inquisitor, bounty hunter, imperial agent, smuggler or a trooper.

Players can also customize their characters' hair, face, body type and facial features. Although there is a great deal of freedom and variety in terms of uniquely customizing your character, there are so many other great races that are unusable in character creation.

Hopefully, there will be a patch that gives players an opportunity to utilize other races in forging their characters. The eight character stories are all unique and actually drove me to start over numerous times to see the story progression of each selectable character. In that sense, replay value for the game is incredibly high.

The game begins with the classic yellow rolling text and iconic "Star Wars" music to give a brief description of your created character and its purpose in the galaxy. The game doesn't

incorporate a formal tutorial to familiarize players with the controls. Instead, it utilizes a tip system that lets players navigate an options menu if they have any questions about controls, quests or anything else related to the game's function. This feature could be a negative aspect to someone unfamiliar with MMO controls. However, as a whole, the lack of a tutorial system is not inhibiting to the point of utter frustration.

Combat and leveling appear very similar to previous MMOs. Strong-force users like the Jedi consular and Sith inquisitor have a "mana" bar that refills over time, but Jedi knight and Sith warrior classes must frequently mash a button to increase their force, a trade-off that lets them cash in more powerful attacks.

Mashing a button to build force for attacks can become annoying, but it creates a more engaging combat system.

In terms of leveling, players gain experience from combat, completing quests and updating their codex. After level 10, characters are able to select an advanced class that branches in two different directions. For example, Sith inquisitors can either become a sorcerer with healing and ranged specializations

or an assassin with a dual-bladed lightsaber. These specializations give players a choice about what role they would like to take on in the "Star Wars" universe.

Deciding on roles to heal, tank, deal damage per second or a mixture of these becomes incredibly important as the game progresses, and without a doubt affects further game play. More importantly though, these decisions determine the role a player assumes when completing group quests, heroics, flashpoints

and operations, which are extremely difficult quests that require two or more players to complete.

The quests don't stray far from your standard kill and collect formula present

in many other MMOs. Although the task of quest grinding can become tiresome, "The Old Republic" distinguishes itself by having quests that are meaningful, interesting and plausible — they don't break up the flow of the game.

There are also some interesting dialogue options, but they have purely cosmetic effects on your character and little effect on the story itself.

I was particularly drawn to "The Old Republic" because Bioware, in the past, has made a name for itself with their mesmerizing storytelling abilities. The MMO

is no different. Each character and nonplayable character in the game is individually voiced. Also, the characters encountered throughout the game all have a personality and reveal their motivations or intentions to the player through incredibly well-crafted dialogue. This feature adds freshness and longevity to the game, something that should keep players interested and willing to complete a quest over again without it becoming boring. This aspect of the game is powerful enough to draw in new players not particularly familiar with MMOs.

As a whole, "Star Wars: The Old Republic" is a well-crafted MMO. The game effortlessly meshes familiar MMO game play with Bioware's invigorating storytelling and character development to create a complete gaming package. Players have the ability to pursue romances and meaningful relationships with their companions, acquiring personal starships, player versus player combat, a system for crafting gear, equipment and items, as well as engaging in space combat, makes players feel as though they are truly a part of the vast "Star Wars" universe.

I have always been convinced that the purpose of any game is to make players feel like a part of the game, giving them the sense that their actions affect the dynamic of the game in addition to characters they meet. In that aspect, "The Old Republic" succeeds beyond expectations.

The game effortlessly meshes familiar MMO gameplay with Bioware's invigorating storytelling and character development to create a complete gaming package.

Dare Dukes releases second album

Singer-songwriter looks back on career

By Maggie Stone

Today at The Sentient Bean on Park Avenue, Dare Dukes is celebrating the release of his second album “Thugs and China Dolls” with an all-age show at 6:30 p.m.

It’s been three years since Duke’s first album, “Prettiest Transmitter of All,” and the songwriter has been hard at work between albums.

“The one big difference is that there are tons more people on this album,” Dukes said. “I’m not that great of a musician, but I did what I could with different players.”

Some members of the long roster of collaborators include Peter Hess from “TV on the Radio” and Thayer Sarrano from “Of Montreal.”

Additionally, singer-songwriter Jim White produced “Simon Says,” a track Dukes almost threw out.

“Simon Says” was a really weird song for me. I recorded it twice, and both times I hated how it sounded. The arrangement didn’t sound right, and I was ready to ax it.

“Then, I met Jim. He really loved the song and told me how he would do it,” he said. “It was totally different than how I imagined it, but I agreed that’s how it should be done. We retored it in the way that’s the most fun to record.

If you have a ton of money, this is how you record. You go song by song because we started with my tracks.”

Dukes’ wife, Susan Falls, also contributed to the album. The couple met over seven years ago while living in New York. Falls, a professor of cultural anthropology at Savannah College of Art and Design, plays piano on the track “Mighty Love.”

“My grandmother had given me a piano years ago. Of course, I’m from North Carolina, and I had no way to take it to New York. My sister had it for ages,” Falls said. “When I came to Savannah, I thought, I’m going to bring it down.”

In the end, she said, Dukes managed to each her a few songs.

The musicians early years

While Falls’ has her grandmother’s piano, Dukes



Savannah-based singer-songwriter Dare Dukes’s new album, “Thugs and China Dolls,” was recorded in Athens, Ga.

Photo courtesy of Dare Dukes

actually didn’t grow up in a musical family. The singer-songwriter said he discovered music while listening to his father’s radio.

“I know the first moment I feel like I discovered music was when I was about 10-years-old. My father had his radio on a baseball game, and I was sitting in the living room playing legos,” Dukes said.

“When he flipped the channel and I heard disco, I was like ‘Oh my God.’ It was on AM radio, and I loved it. I remember feeling it was like a window had opened up.”

After a series of what Dukes deemed bad piano teachers, he eventually formed a high school band called Exodus.

Through the band, Dukes convinced his mother to get him guitar lessons.

After his high school band, the singer-songwriter lived in Minneapolis for a while and had a band he described as derivative of the Pixies.

“That was my first, real band. I really loved the Pixies and Fugazi. It’s funny, because at the time, I really felt like I was the only person who loved them as much,” he said. “After the fact, I read that Kurt Coban wrote ‘Smells Like

Teen Spirit’ because he was trying to write a Pixies song.”

Dare Dukes the novelist

Dukes later moved from Minneapolis to New York in order to write a novel. He sold all of his records and quit playing music.

“I had this amazing record collection, from my very first record on, with almost every David Bowie record up to ‘Let’s Dance’ and weird new Romantics,” he said. “I had a ton of great music, and it was a bad choice. I thought it would be interesting and symbolic to sell all of my music. I got \$113 for 2,000 records.”

Dukes said he wanted to be a novelist, and all he needed was in the back of his Subaru station wagon. He sold all his music and abandoned his instruments, by loaning them out to people and never seeing them again.

After he began working on his novel, Dukes said his life began falling apart.

“I got an agent, but the novel never got published. As the novel wasn’t getting published, I really just crashed and burned,” he said. “When I crashed and burned, I was forced to make new choices.”

Dukes said he began questioning why he wasn’t playing music, a question that became increasingly insistent.

As he tried to work on his second novel, music gradually became more of a priority in his life.

“At one point, it just became clear that I was banging my head against this novel,” Dukes said. “I knew some professional musicians and they liked my stuff, and they started playing out with me. It was fun and it felt right.”

A return to music

When Falls secured a job at SCAD in Savannah, Dukes wanted to memorialize what he was doing with his band in New York.

“I got some studio time, and we recorded it. I wasn’t really thinking of putting it out. It sounded a lot better than I thought it was going to sound. So, when I got down here I started adding tracks.”

Falls said they were both looking forward to the move. “Everything happened really fast,” she said.

“We were just kind of ready for a change. We came down here and looked around and

felt like Savannah was an interesting town. It was the entire opposite of New York. We thought it would be an adventure.”

Shortly after moving to Savannah, Dukes added to the tracks he recorded in New York. The memorial became the backbone for his 2008 release “Prettiest Transmitter of All.”

“Something seemed right about honoring my music,” he said. “It’s really easy to go insane with music, but I could probably say that about anything I do.

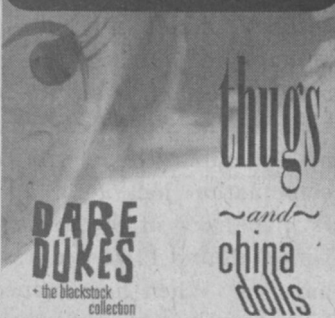
After a pleasant reception to his first album, Dukes crafted “Thugs and China Dolls,” a self-aware album with greater attention to lyrics and arrangements.

“The first time that I heard the album, I just thought ‘Wow,’” Falls said. “I’ve been watching from the sidelines of course. I know the songs. I’ve heard him play them hundreds of times, but when I heard them altogether — when I heard the whole arc of the whole project — I felt really happy and proud.”

Dukes’ background in writing and storytelling might contribute to the album’s allure.

“I do like writing songs

Dare Dukes



Dare Dukes will perform Jan. 19 at 6:30 p.m. at The Sentient Bean. Cover is \$8.

He will also perform Jan. 20 at The Jinx on Congress Street. Cover is \$7.

and stories about other people. There’s a place where you force yourself to take an imaginative leap. To me, you’re more likely to create something dynamic than if I sit down and scrutinize my everyday existence.”

Part of that everyday existence for Dukes is performing live — something he’s still not entirely comfortable with.

“Playing live still terrifies me. I enjoy it once I’ve started. Sometimes, I hate it the whole time. Sometimes, I know the way I’m feeling about it is totally wrong.”

Despite his performance anxiety, Dukes said he’s looking forward to his upcoming album release party at The Sentient Bean, specifically because of the venue itself.

“One of the reasons I love The Sentient Bean is that the audiences there are very respectful. They close the curtain, and they just watch you. It’s really amazing,” he said. “It’s wonderful to play somewhere like the Bean where I can walk into the audience without a mic and have everybody listen.”

‘Contraband’ provides fun entertainment

By Todd Perkins

Whether because of poor filming technique or subpar story lines, January flicks are usually forgettable. There is, however, the occasional movie exciting enough to leave an impression on audiences.

“Contraband,” directed by Baltasar Kormakur, is an action-thriller seemingly aware of all the plot devices and stereotypes usually riddling mediocre films in this genre.

This — along with star Mark Wahlberg’s commanding presence — elevates the material from merely something to watch to somewhat memorable.

Wahlberg stars as Chris Farraday, a retired smuggler slash married father of two who now makes an honest living. After his brother-in-law Andy (Caleb Landry Jones) gets involved with a drug deal gone wrong, Chris is forced to pay off the debt to a low-life gangster named Tim Briggs (Giovanni Ribisi).

The impending debt forces Chris to get involved in a smuggling scheme, transporting ‘funny money’

from Panama back into the United States under the guise of a cargo-ship employee. His plan quickly begins falling apart, but to protect his family, Chris has to pull the score off in time.

Wahlberg does a fine job playing the no-nonsense tough guy without falling into cliché territory. Through Wahlberg, Chris is depicted as vulnerable and sensitive instead of stone cold, contrary to the Jason Statham approach.

The acting is altogether solid. Ben Foster and J.K. Simmons are well-used in the film playing Chris’ closest friend and a ship captain. Foster, in particular, is very memorable. Ribisi’s performance is so enjoyable to watch it’s easy to forgive how over the top it is. The only weak link is Kate Beckinsale as Chris’ wife, simply because she doesn’t do anything except play a victim.

Kormakur, who actually starred in the original Icelandic film “Reykjavik-Rotterdam,” directs in a style very reminiscent to the 2009 movie “The Town.” The bleak cinematography and fast-paced film editing makes

the film realistic and gritty, which nicely compliments the atmosphere and Kormakur’s direction.

The writing isn’t spectacular, but there are several moments that caught the audience off-guard. Like most action flicks today, the use of hand-held camera shots and frenetic pacing is wasted, because it feels like watching one of Paul Greengrass’ Jason Bourne movies.

“Contraband” has a few tricks up its sleeves making it a worthwhile film to watch, but there is always the thought that Wahlberg could be doing something better. With films like “Boogie Nights,” “Three Kings,” “The Departed” and “The Fighter” on his resume, Wahlberg has proven himself as an actor. But until he decides to prove it more often, this fun flick will have to suffice.

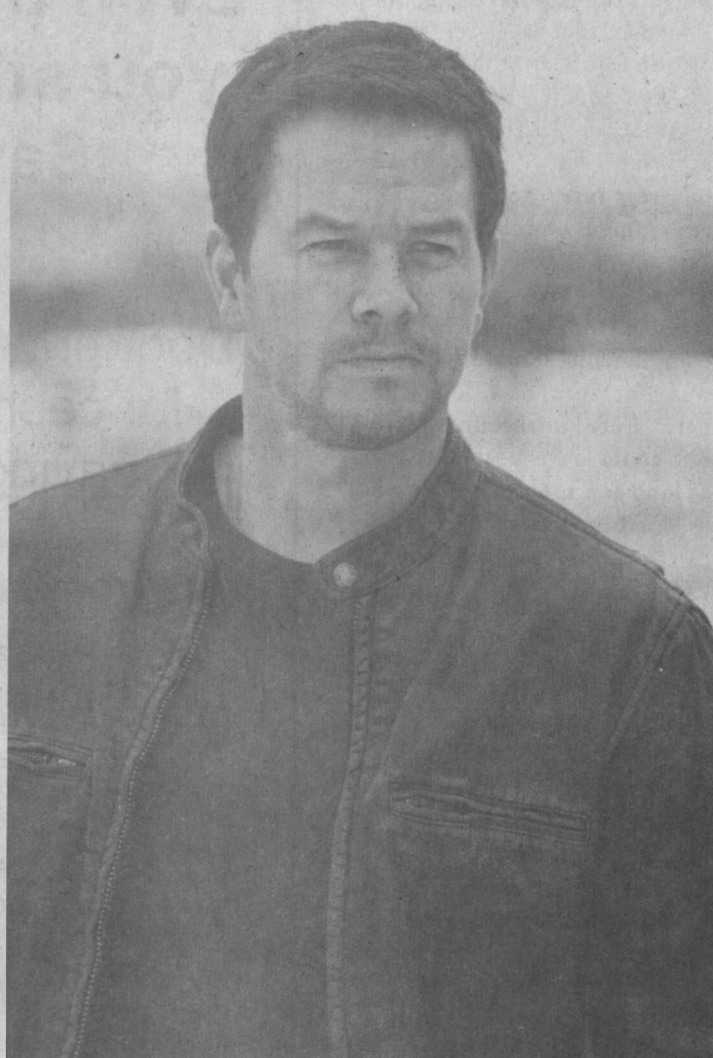
Silver screen

3 out of 5 laundered money bags



Directed by Baltasar Kormakur
Produced by Universal Pictures
Starring Mark Wahlberg, Giovanni Ribisi and Kate Beckinsale
Rated R for violence, pervasive language and brief drug use

Showing at Frank Theatres, Carmike 10, Carmike Wynnsong 11 and GTC Pooler Stadium Cinemas 12



Mark Wahlberg leads the cast as Chris Farraday in “Contraband,” a white-knuckle action-thriller.

MCT

Crime Blotter

Cyberbullying, drugs, theft on campus

By Brittany Cook
Copy.Inkwell@gmail.com

University Police officer Meagan Zike returned to police headquarters Dec. 1 in response to a report of a stolen bicycle. The student secured his mountain bike with a combination lock to a bike rack in front of the Student Union around 11:20 a.m. that morning. When he returned from classes at approximately 3 p.m., he discovered that his bike was missing.

"The problem with the cheap combination locks is that they're kind of made of a pot metal," Police Chief Wayne Willcox said. "Pot metal is where they kind of cast it — they take the metal and put it into a mold, and it sort of assumes a shape. The problem with casting is they can be very weak and also very cheap. If you really want to lock up your bike, you should use a U-lock."

Dispatch sent Officer Kenneth Louk to the Compass Point Clubhouse Dec. 3 after a student reported that her laundry was stolen from the dryer around 11 p.m. The student lost various Housing T-shirts, jeans, a hoodie and several other articles of clothing.

"We see this from time to time. This is an open campus," Willcox said. "This isn't somebody taking a T-shirt they wanted. This is somebody who just wanted to take a bunch of clothing. We have had issues with people coming on campus, and sometimes they're just looking for opportunities if the doors are open."

On Dec. 5, a student reported harassment from a resident of Windward Commons to Lt. Joe Peny. A student was bullying the complainant on several social media sites, including placing inappropriate pictures and slanderous comments on the complainant's Facebook wall and referenced a webpage entitled "Retarded Advice Kid," at www.quickmeme.com, where the student's picture adorned with inappropriate comments was uploaded. The police acquired screenshots of both pages and a written statement from the accuser.

"We're really trying to work with Student Affairs and the individuals involved and trying to get them to think about this stuff and turn it into an educational thing, but I suspect that we'll see more of this stuff in the future," Willcox said.

Officer Keith Jeffries reported to Solms Hall in response to theft of government property Dec. 14. Two Echo Smartpens valued at \$150 each were missing from two offices. The complainant stated that she was not sure how long the pens were unaccounted for but could have been missing as long as a month.

"We have no suspects. We can't even tell you when they came up missing," Willcox said. "They didn't use them often enough to say these things came up missing yesterday, who used them last, or anything else."

On Jan. 6 at 10:40 a.m., a student reported that several items were stolen from his dorm in University Terrace while he was absent during the break. Two three-piece suits, a poster and about 20 family photographs — an estimated total of \$1001 — were missing.

"Some schools actually

require the students to move out in between semesters, but Armstrong doesn't. That's a convenience, and you should probably lock your room," Willcox said.

Officers Richard Mitts and Michael Tyler were patrolling Resident Lot I Jan. 10 at 12:30 a.m. when they noticed four white males leaning on a black truck. When the officers approached the group, the males left the area in a white 2003 Ford Ranger.

A few moments later, Tyler noticed the truck return and park in the back of parking lot. The males exited the vehicle and headed to the University Hall parking lot. Noticing the passenger window was down, Mitts and Tyler approached the truck to retrieve the owner's information. It smelled strongly of burnt marijuana.

Mitts called dispatch who then called the owner to return to his vehicle to roll up the window, so that nothing would be stolen from it. When the owner returned, Tyler noticed he smelled strongly of alcohol. Tyler asked the male if he'd been drinking, which he replied that he had not. However, when Tyler asked again, the owner admitted to having two to five beers.

Tyler, then, inquired about the marijuana smell in his truck. The male denied smoking anything at first but eventually admitted to it after the officers searched his vehicle with his permission and found residue. A grinder and a wood pipe were also found during the search. These items were placed in evidence, and the owner was issued a city ordinance citation.

Professor examines sexual harassment among youth

By Brittany Cook
Copy.Inkwell@gmail.com

"From name calling (daily), to ogling and cat calling in public spaces, to grabbing young women's buttocks in the middle of class, to more violent acts of sexual aggressions such as dating abuse, rape and molestation, sexual harassment is pervasive in the lives of young women," wrote Regina Rahimi in her new book "Pervasive Vulnerabilities: Sexual Harassment in School." As an assistant professor in the Department of Adolescent and Adult Learning, Rahimi coauthored the 200-page book with her Georgia Southern colleague Delores Liston.

Rahimi based "Pervasive Vulnerabilities," published by Pete Lang Publishing Dec. 31, on her dissertation and 10 years of research. The book explores the beliefs, attitudes and behaviors of young women, adolescent males and teachers towards the issue of sexual harassment and addresses the double standard that young girls have to endure. "You're expected to be sexual and look sexy, but the minute you cross the line — and who knows what that line is — you're called a slut," Rahimi said.

In the first section of the book, Rahimi and Liston discuss how sexual harassment in middle and high school affected young women who had been out of high school for several years.

"They had dropped out of school, got into drugs. Many of them experienced a series of abusive relationships and risky sexual behavior," Rahimi said.

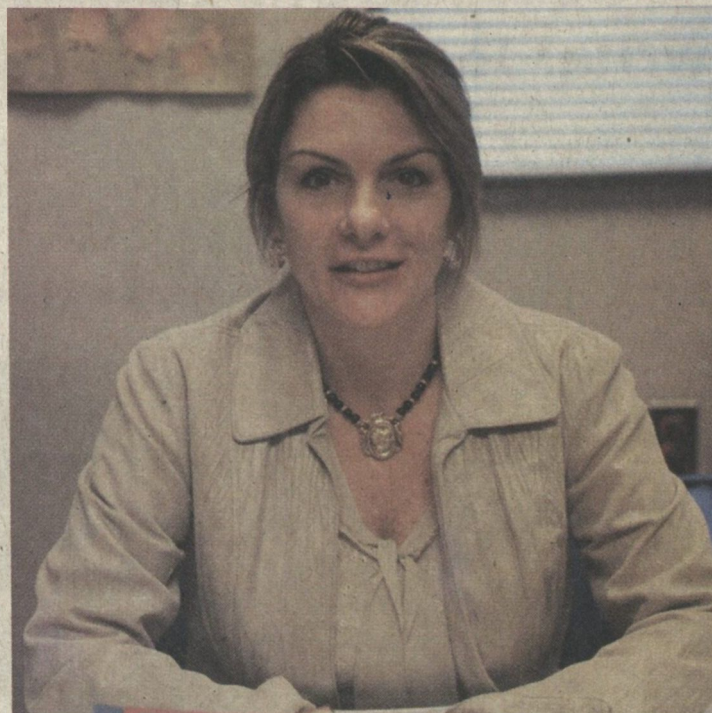


Photo by Vincent Haines

Regina Rahimi is the coauthor of "Pervasive Vulnerabilities," available now at Barnes & Noble and Amazon.com.

The two authors discovered that several of these women had egregious stories to share, and many attributed these behaviors directly to the treatment they received during their middle and high school years.

Secondly, Rahimi and Liston interviewed teachers who spent at least five years in the profession to see how the teachers viewed sexual harassment occurring in their classrooms.

"The teachers in that study blamed the girls for the sexual harassment, or they would say, 'Oh, there's no sexual harassment,'" Rahimi said.

They found that several of the teachers in these high schools even held racist views, especially toward their black female students. Throwing around phrases such as "You

them.

"They reiterated how funny it was to call girls names, how funny it was that they got scared, how funny it was that they got touched in the hall," Rahimi said.

In the last section of the book, Rahimi and Liston discuss various suggestions for schools and teachers to create a safer and more accepting environment for both girls and boys who are bullied in middle and high school in an effort to eradicate future sexual harassment from occurring. With the lack of funding for school, counselors are being eliminated from the education staff, leaving teachers and administrators to fill these positions.

"Understanding these principles is important for upcoming teachers because sexual harassment and bullying have always been and will always be an issue in schools," said senior early childhood education major Abby Longaberger. "Schools should be a safe and inviting place for boys and girls of all ages, sexual orientation, ethnicity and socioeconomic status. Children need to feel comfortable. It's one of Maslow's hierarchy of needs. People need to feel safe before they are ever going to learn."

"Pervasive Vulnerabilities: Sexual Harassment in School" is available at Barnes & Noble and Amazon.com.

"I hope that it sparks some conversation about how we treat people," Rahimi said. "Most girls can relate to these stories."

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